United Nations E/CN.9/2017/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 January 2017

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Fiftieth session
3-7 April 2017
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. General debate:
   (a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels;
   (b) Special theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission[1] based on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation.
4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, one or more Vice-Chairs and such other officers as may be required.

[1] Changing population age structures and sustainable development.

17-00366 (E) 190117

Please recycle

In accordance with Council decision 2005/213, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its forty-ninth session, held the first meeting of its fiftieth session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission. The Commission elected Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani (Qatar) as Chair and Eleonora van Munster (the Netherlands) as Vice Chair for the fiftieth session. At the second meeting of its fiftieth session, to be held on 3 April 2017, the Commission will elect the Vice-Chairs nominated by the groups of African States, Eastern European States and Latin American and Caribbean States.

The membership of the Commission at its fiftieth session is provided in the annex to the present document.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its forty-ninth session, the Council, in its decision 2016/256 (see A/71/3, chap. X, sect. I.6), approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission.

At its thirtieth session, the Commission decided to authorize its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis (see E/1997/25, para. 52). At its thirty-ninth session, in its resolution 2006/1 (see E/2006/25, chap. I.B), the Commission requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for its annual sessions.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2017/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2017/L.1)

3. General debate

(a) Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

(b) Special theme of the fiftieth session of the Commission[1] based on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation

In its resolution 49/128, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

At its twenty-first special session, the General Assembly, in its resolution S-21/2, adopted the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 65/234, extended the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014.

On the basis of the recommendation made by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2016/25 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission. In the resolution, the Council reaffirmed the primary mandate of the Commission to monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and to advise the Council thereon; also reaffirmed the central role of the Commission in coordinating the review and assessment of the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, including addressing gaps and challenges to implementation; and affirmed that the Commission would contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within its existing mandate, and that the contribution of the Commission should reflect the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as their interlinkages.

In the terms of reference of the Commission (see E/1995/27, annex I, sect. I.A), which were endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55, the Commission was called upon to adopt a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year programme. That work programme would, inter alia, provide a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In its report on its twenty-eighth session, of which the Council took note in its decision 1995/236, the Commission called for the preparation of annual reports on a selected topic of the Programme of Action (see E/1995/27, annex I, sect. III).

On the basis of the recommendation made by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, the Council, in its resolution 2016/25, decided that the Commission should continue its current practice of selecting one special theme for each annual session on the basis of progress, gaps, recurrent challenges and evolving issues relevant to population and development based on the Programme of Action and the key actions to accelerate its further implementation, while also taking into account the 2030 Agenda, with a view to fully implementing all of its mandated tasks and contributing to the work of the Council, including by building synergies and, in the context of its working methods, as appropriate, taking into account the annual thematic focus of the Council and of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/290 and 68/1, as part of a multi-year work programme. The Council also decided to include, under the item on the general debate, two sub-items, one focusing on actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action at the global, regional and national levels and one focusing on the special theme of the Commission.

In its decision 2016/101 (see E/2016/25, chap. I.C), the Commission decided that the theme for its fiftieth session, in 2017, would be "Changing population age structures and sustainable development".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on changing population age structures and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2017/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on changing population age structures and sustainable development (E/CN.9/2017/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2017/4)

4. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission suggested that the work programme in the field of population should continue, inter alia, to give high priority to the monitoring of population trends and policies and include the biennial preparation of estimates and projections of global, national, urban, rural and city populations; the conduct of studies on population and related development policies; the preparation of studies on interactions of population change with other development processes; the conduct of analyses of mortality; contribution to and coordination of in-depth studies on fertility, nuptiality and reproductive rights and health, including family planning; the conduct of studies to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of internal migration and international migration; increasing public awareness of and information exchange on population and development issues; making the necessary arrangements for coordinating the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action; and the provision of technical cooperation support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition in the light of the economic and social problems that those countries faced at that time (see E/1995/27, annex II). The Commission reaffirmed the content of the work programme at its twenty-ninth session (Commission resolution 1996/1, see E/1996/25, chap. I.C).

At its thirtieth session, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing the basic work of the Population Division of the Secretariat on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections; basic population trends and issues, including fertility, mortality, migration and patterns of rural and urban population change; the evolution of population policies; and understanding of the links between population and development (Commission resolution 1997/3, see E/1997/25, chap. I.C). At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of the work of the Division in providing the United Nations system and the international community with comprehensive and scientifically sound inputs for the analysis of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population and development set in the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, especially the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (Commission resolution 2004/1, see E/2004/25, chap. I.B). At the same session, the Commission further emphasized that the Division should continue its basic work on population estimates and projections; patterns of rural and urban population change; the analysis of international migration; the implications of the changing age structure of the population for development; the increasing diversity of fertility and mortality levels and trends; the interrelations among population, resources, the environment and development; and

the evolution of population policies, applying a gender perspective in this regard (Commission resolution 2004/1).

The Commission has before it the report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2016 (E/CN.9/2017/5). Members of the Commission are invited to review the report and provide comments thereon.

As indicated in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Prog. 7)), the objective of the Organization under the subprogramme on population is to contribute to improved policy frameworks to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimension into the international development agenda. Pursuant to paragraph 7.11 of the proposed strategic framework, the Population Division is the entity responsible for the subprogramme on population, the mandate of which is to be achieved by: (a) providing substantive support to United Nations bodies, especially the Commission on Population and Development, assessing progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and following up on the decision of the General Assembly to extend the Programme of Action beyond 2014; (b) facilitating the discussion of key or emerging population issues by experts or government representatives; (c) preparing comprehensive studies on population issues and trends relating to fertility, family planning, mortality, international and internal migration, urbanization, population growth, population ageing, population projections, population policy and population in relation to development; (d) disseminating population information and policy-relevant findings in the area of population through the Division's website; and (e) supporting capacity development to address population issues through workshops or the dissemination of technical material, such as manuals and software, in collaboration with other subprogrammes and entities in related areas.

The Commission has before it the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2018-2019. Members of the Commission are invited to review the draft and provide comments thereon.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2016: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2017/5)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work for the period 2018-2019: subprogramme 5, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission has before it the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-first session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their

preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Council resolutions 1979/41 and 1981/83 on the control and limitation of documentation. In addition, the Commission is reminded that the Council, in paragraph 1 (j) of its resolution 1982/50 on the revitalization of the Council, urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the provisions of the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the annex to Council resolution 1982/50, in which the Secretary-General recommended that: (a) the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly be streamlined in order to enable the subsidiary bodies to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; (b) the Council and the Assembly continue to review the provisional agendas for their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and (c) in doing so, the Council and the Assembly also take into account the need for the consolidation of items and documentation for their subsidiary machinery.

Furthermore, in its resolution 1981/83, the Council instructed its subsidiary bodies to take urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and the cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and the Assembly.

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General: (a) to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources; and (b) to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

On the basis of the recommendation made by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2016/25, decided to include, under the item on the general debate, two sub-items, one focusing on actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action at the global, regional and national levels and one focusing on the special theme of the Commission. The proposed provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission reflects this change.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2017/L.2)

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit a report to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on Population and Development at its fiftieth session (2017)

(47 members; four-year term)

	Term expires at close of session in the year
Argentina	2018
Bangladesh	2017
Belarus	2019
Belgium	2021
Benin	2018
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2019
Brazil	2021
Burundi	2019
Chad	2017
Chile	2020
China	2018
Denmark	2017
Dominican Republic	2018
Finland	2020
Germany	2018
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2019
Iraq	2017
Israel	2019
Jamaica	2019
Liberia	2018
Madagascar	2021
Malaysia	2018
Mexico	2021
Mongolia	2018
Morocco	2020
Netherlands	2017
Nigeria	2017
Oman	2017
Pakistan	2018

	Term expires at close of session in the year
Peru	2018
Philippines	2019
Qatar	2020
Republic of Moldova	2020
Romania	2021
Russian Federation	2018
Serbia	2018
Sierra Leone	2019
South Africa	2018
Sudan	2020
Switzerland	2017
Turkmenistan	2020
Uganda	2020
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2018
United States of America	2018
Uruguay	2017
Zambia	2018

Note: At the 17th meeting of its 2016 session, on 5 April 2016, the Economic and Social Council elected the following eight Member States for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the fifty-first session of the Commission, in 2017, and expiring at the close of the fifty-fourth session, in 2021: Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Cuba, Japan, Madagascar, Mali and Mexico. The Council postponed the election of two members from Asia-Pacific States, one member from Eastern European States and three members from Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the fifty-first session of the Commission, in 2017, and expiring at the close of the fifty-fourth session, in 2021. The Council also elected Turkmenistan to fill an outstanding vacancy on the Commission for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, in 2016. The Council further postponed the election of one member from Latin American and Caribbean States, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, in 2016, and one member from Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning on the first meeting of the fiftieth session, in 2017, and expiring at the close of the fifty-third session, in 2020 (see decision 2016/201 D).

At the 6th meeting of its 2016 session, on 8 December 2016, the Economic and Social Council elected France and Romania to fill outstanding vacancies on the Commission for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the fifty-first session of the Commission, in 2017, and expiring at the close of the fifty-fourth session, in 2021. The Council decided to further postpone the election of two members from Asia-Pacific States and two members from Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the fifty-first session of the Commission, in 2017, and expiring at the close of the fifty-fourth session, in 2021, and one member from Western European and other States beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the fifty-third session of the Commission, in 2020.